

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C., MAY 27, 1937

The 10th meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1937, was held in its office in the New Interior Department Building on Thursday, May 27, 1937. The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Clarke,
Mr. Savage,
Mr. Shepley,
Mr. Lamb,
Mr. Manship,
also H. P. Caemmerer,

Executive Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a. m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS: The Minutes of the Meetings of March 20 and April 8, 1937, were approved.
2. RESOLUTION: The Commission expressed their appreciation to the Secretary of the Interior for his courtesy in providing adequate office space for the Commission in the New Interior Department Building. (Exhibit A)
3. NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART: Mr. David E. Finley and Mr. Donald Shepard, Trustees for the National Gallery of Art and representing Mr. Mellon, were in conference with the Commission as to the plans for the building. Mr. Finley said that Mr. Mellon wanted him and Mr. Shepard to be here to find out if they were proceeding along right lines and to answer questions primarily. He said: "Mr. Pope has nothing to show for about ten days or two weeks when he will have revised sketches. After the meeting on April 8, we discussed the questions brought up concerning the ^{monumental} stairway and the dome and Mr. Moore communicated with Mr. Pope verbally. Mr. Mellon has asked Mr. Pope to prepare designs without a dome or with a modification of a dome. We understand that these are the two main questions under discussion."

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Held in Washington, D.C., May 27, 1951

The first meeting of the Commission of this body during the fiscal year

was held in the office of the New Historic Department Building at

May 27, 1951. The following members were present:

Mr. Henry, Chairman
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Winterrowd

Also present were:

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

At 10:05 a.m. the following business was transacted:

1. The minutes of the meeting of May 17, 1951, were approved.

2. Mr. Henry presented the following report:

At the meeting of the Institute for the Study of the History of the

Commission in the New Historic Department Building, May 17, 1951,

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The Commission requested that the designs be submitted whenever Mr. Pope has them ready for submission.

As to the necessity for this, Mr. Clarke said that serious consideration was not given to the building plans at the meeting in Mr. Mellon's apartment; Mr. Moore's letter of January 30 was written in order to expedite the legislation by Congress, which at that time involved the question of locating the building on the Mall, particularly since there was opposition to the closing of Sixth Street by Citizens Associations and others.

Mr. Finley said that at the last meeting on April 8, the Commission considered the dome too high and that it would break the skyline, but Mr. Pope says the height of the building is such that the dome is six feet lower than that of the National Museum and it could be lowered six feet more. Mr. Clarke reiterated his statement that a series of domes along the Mall would be very unpleasant and that the quiet reserve would be disturbed by these bumps. Mr. Shepley thought the dome would not adequately take care of the long building and that the two ends "wag" the dome. He stated further that if the two wings were cut off the dome might be all right. Mr. Clarke felt that the buildings along the Mall should be distinctive; that if all of them have domes it would be monotonous. Mr. Lamb concurred in Mr. Clarke's statement, saying he has no objection to domes as such but in this case it is a question of ultimately having so many domes on the Mall that something other than a dome should be designed for the central part of this building.

Mr. Finley reminded the Commission that this is really a serious situation as Mr. Pope is getting out his working drawings and the contract for foundations has been let and that certain sub-contracts are being let. He stated further that this delay may cost Mr. Mellon about \$1,500,000 more because of the increase in cost of materials. Mr. Clarke said: "I do not think we have any part in the delay. Congress passed the Act which gave

this Commission authority to review and approve the plans on March 24, 1937, and prior to that it could not be expected that this Commission would review plans in detail and approve them. What the Commission said on January 29, in Mr. Mellon's apartment, about the stairway, the two end pediments, and the dome should have made it perfectly clear to Mr. Pope that the design was not altogether satisfactory. Mr. Pope and Mr. Eggers were there. I know I myself questioned the dome. The dome was discussed as also was the stairway and the two end pediments. Mr. Pope must have known there were some questions in our minds. Several of the members of the Commission have talked with former members and they do not like the dome."

Mr. Shepard said that the letter of January 30, sent by Mr. Moore to Mr. Mellon, stated that the Commission had approved the plans and that they relied on it when appearing before committees of Congress that passed on the legislation for the building.

Mr. Moore said the letter was sent to expedite the legislation in Congress and to assure Congress that the Commission welcomes Mr. Mellon's gift of paintings and a National Gallery. All of these plans were submitted to the two Houses of Congress before the bill was passed and at that time we had no authority; we got authority from the Act only. Mr. Finley replied that the design was shown to many Congressmen who liked the dome and no objection was raised; furthermore when Congress saw the design it was understood that that was the building that was approved. Therefore, when Mr. Mellon heard last month that there was objection to the dome he was quite upset and felt very badly about it. Mr. Clarke said: "I am sorry the architect did not present the case in full; he knows about the procedure since he served on this Commission and must

realize that a group of professional men are not going to be inspired and overcome by a set of cabinet drawings. We asked him questions about the design and he did not answer them. He knew at the first meeting that the dome was not satisfactory."

"Mr. Moore very properly sent the letter of January 30, to help take care of the criticism as to other points, particularly with reference to closing Sixth Street. It was done in order to expedite the passage of the bill through Congress. Now we are not trying to embarrass Mr. Mellon but it seems that Mr. Pope is trying to embarrass the Commission, because he relies on the letter which put the Commission on record as to the site and general design."

Mr. Shepley said, "The general impression was conveyed that the design was approved and I think we might be criticized by Congress". Mr. Clarke said, "I am not afraid of that. We have talked about this to prominent architects and we have never heard from any one who liked the dome. We expect that when Mr. Pope has his studies ready he will submit them to the Commission. If Mr. Pope accepts that challenge sincerely he is certainly a great enough architect to produce something better. It is not reasonable to believe that he could not do something better."

After some further discussion Mr. Finley said that he wished to assure the members of the Commission that Mr. Mellon desires to cooperate with the Commission towards a satisfactory solution of the problem and that they had no ideas of proceeding without the Commission's approval.

Mr. Moore then said that arrangements would be made for a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts in New York City as soon as the revised sketches are received.

4. NATIONAL AUDITORIUM: Mr. Moore read a memorandum (Exhibit B) which he had made of what he gathered from committee meetings of the Advisory Committee for the National Auditorium, of which Mr. C. Marshall Finnan, Superintendent of the National Capital Parks, is Chairman. He said that he thought the Committee was going to choose the John Marshall Place site at Fourth Street.

Mr. Clarke said that he talked with a member of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission who stated that that body favored a location for the new Municipal Building across John Marshall Place thus closing the vista to the Courthouse. Both Mr. Lamb and Mr. Shepley took strong exception to this recommendation and the Commission again reaffirmed its decision that the new Municipal Building should not be built across John Marshall Place.

Mr. Moore explained that the reason for the great pressure for locating the auditorium here is that the District bought that land and they are now anxious to sell part of it to the Government. However, it is Mr. Finnan's opinion that the auditorium should be located at the end of East Capitol Street in Anacostia Park. Indications are, however, that the Washington Board of Trade and many other interested bodies prefer the Fourth Street site, since delegates to conventions would not want to travel about two miles to the end of East Capitol Street to attend meetings and conventions.

Serious consideration should be given to the traffic problem in connection with any location for the Auditorium, particularly the Commission suggested that careful study be given to the site on the east side of John Marshall Place; one serious aesthetic factor to be considered is the height of one end or side necessary for the stage scenery. This location would probably not interfere with the National Gallery of Art. The new Municipal Building, a lower building, could then be built on the west side of John Marshall Place opposite the Auditorium. This is a matter, however, to be brought to the

particular attention of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

Mr. Moore said there is now the question whether this building should be squared or built in alignment with Pennsylvania Avenue. Mr. Clarke felt that the relationship with the Mall is probably the most important so that it would probably be better to place the building on the cross city axis, related to the Archives Building.

As to a type of building, Mr. Moore said the Kansas City Auditorium has been mentioned more or less as a prototype with respect to general plan and arrangement. That building holds 40,000 people. However, the proposed Washington Auditorium is to be limited to 15,000 for the auditorium proper and should be of appropriate design so as to harmonize with the Triangle buildings. Mr. Wyeth, the Municipal Architect, has submitted preliminary sketches of the proposed auditorium.

5. SECOND ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION MEDAL: Under date of May 26, 1937, the following letter was received from Mr. Henry LaFarge, Special Assistant, Treasury Department Art Projects:

May 26, 1937.

Mr. Charles Moore, Chairman
The Commission of Fine Arts
New Department of the Interior Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moore:

Under separate cover I am having forwarded to the Commission of Fine Arts for its comment and advice, the proposed design for a medal for the Second Byrd Antarctic Expedition.

This design is in the form of a preliminary plaster model. Accompanying this plaster model is a drawing showing the proposed design for the reverse of this medal, with an inscription.

These designs have been approved by Rear Admiral Adolphus Andrews, Chief of the Bureau of Navigation, and by the Treasury Department Art Projects.

The dimensions of the medal are to be $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, which is the regulation size of a Navy medal.

These designs have been executed by Heinz Warneke, an artist working under the Treasury Department Art Projects.

Thanking you for a report on this item, I am

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Henry LaFarge,
Special Assistant,
Treasury Department Art Projects.

Mr. LaFarge was present at the meeting and asked for an expression from the Commission as to the model since the appropriation for it will lapse by June 30. Mr. Manship on inspecting the model, which portrayed Admiral Byrd and his pet dog, said the small dogs at the bottom of the reverse would be hardly legible. Mr. Moore suggested that the dates (which should be verified) should balance each other. Mr. Manship liked the figure of Admiral Byrd with his dog.

As to the inscription on the reverse, this was thought to be quite lengthy. In reply to several criticisms, Mr. Manship said he felt the rectangular shape of the inscription was not bad. Mr. Shepley, however, did not like the shape with all the little detail around it. Mr. Manship said all these little figures mean something to the men who went to the South Pole and if the subjects could be conventionalized he would leave them there. Mr. Moore said that if the sculptor were a good enough designer he might work the lettering in with the pictures.

Mr. LaFarge said the inscription was given to his office by the Navy Department and he was told that that department wants it kept as shown in the design. Mr. Moore read a draft of an inscription he had prepared which the Commission thought much better but at the same time the Commission did not rule out the Navy Department inscription. However, the Commission advised that the sculptor make a model of the design. A report was sent to Mr. LaFarge accordingly. (Exhibit C)

6. U. S. NAVAL EXPEDITIONARY FORCE MEDAL: Under date of May 26, 1937, the following letter was received from Mr. Henry LaFarge, submitting a sketch for a medal for the United States Naval Expeditionary Forces in Foreign Lands:

May 26, 1937.

Dear Mr. Moore:

Under separate cover I am having forwarded to the Commission of Fine Arts for its comment and advice, the proposed design for a medal for the United States Naval Expeditionary Forces in Foreign Lands.

Subject to certain minor changes which have been recommended, this design has been approved by Rear Admiral Adolphus Andrews, Chief of the Bureau of Navigation, and by the Major General Commandant of the Marine Corps, as well as by the Treasury Department Art Projects.

The changes in the design, which have been recommended, include the addition of profiles of three or four heads of soldiers and guns behind the two figures on the left, in order to get the effect of a crowd; the indication of a horizon line; and a general refinement in the details.

The dimensions of the medal are $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, which is the regulation size for a Navy medal.

The design has been executed by Vincent Glinsky, an artist working under the Treasury Department Art Projects.

Thanking you for a report on this item, I am

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Henry La Farge,
Special Assistant,
Treasury Department Art Projects.

The sketch, which suggested a group of Navy men landing, was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Manship, who advised that it has nothing of the feeling of a design to go on a medal; in other words, the design should be less pictorial. The other members of the Commission were of the same opinion. Mr. Manship expressed doubt that the sculptor had ever made a medal.

Mr. LaFarge asked whether there would be any objection to asking the sculptor to make a model of the design, and the Commission assented. A report

was sent to Mr. LaFarge. (Exhibit D)

7. SCULPTURED PANELS FOR THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE WAREHOUSE:

Sketches were submitted by Mr. Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect, for sculptural panels to go on the Government Printing Office Warehouse, with letter as follows:

May 1, 1937.

Chairman,
Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

There are being forwarded to you by special messenger, for comment and advice, three sketches showing the sculptured panels to be installed on the exterior of the new Warehouse for the Government Printing Office, this city.

For your information there are forwarded to you blueprints of elevation drawings showing the location of these sculptured panels.

This office would appreciate your comments at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Louis A. Simon,
Supervising Architect.

The sketches were referred to Mr. Manship for comment. Mr. Manship said they seemed to him to be quite inadequate; there is no sculptural feeling in them; the drawing is bad and uninteresting. The Commission also criticized the eagle. Mr. Shepley said they look as if a draftsman did the work because the machinery is drawn so much better. The Commission inspected the locations for the panels on the building.

Mr. Savage said money is made available for these panels since the Treasury Department allows two per cent for painting and sculpture. The Commission felt this was an opportunity for good work and Mr. Simon was advised that the

matter be placed in the hands of a competent sculptor. The sketches submitted were disapproved. (Exhibit E)

8. FLEET MARINE CORPS RESERVE MEDAL: The U. S. Marine Corps submitted a model by John R. Sinnock of the Philadelphia Mint for the Marine Corps Reserve Medal. The model was inspected in particular by Mr. Manship. The Commission approved the model with the suggestion that the motif at the bottom be placed in a somewhat lower position or in some other place so as not to come into conflict with the main design. A report was sent to the Marine Corps accordingly. (Exhibit F)

9. BATTLE OF ANTIETAM MEMORIAL COIN: Under date of May 25, 1937, the following letter was received from Senator Millard E. Tydings, requesting the advice of the Commission as to the Battle of Antietam Memorial Coin:

May 25, 1937.

Mr. Charles Moore, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Navy Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Moore:

I received your letter of the 16th relative to the Battle of Antietam Memorial Coin, for which I wish to thank you.

The measure authorizing the issuance of this coin has now been approved by the House Committee, and we hope to have it passed very soon.

Will you please be so good as to advise me if the sculptor has conformed to the suggestions contained in your letter and whether the design is now in proper order? Because of the shortness of the time, the celebration to be held in September, we are most anxious to have everything in readiness to carry out the plans as soon as the bill becomes a law.

Thanking you for your further advices, and with best wishes,
I am

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) M. E. Tydings.

The Commission had previously sent a letter to Senator Tydings on April 16, (Exhibit G) reporting their approval of the model subject to certain changes. Mr. William Marks Simpson, sculptor, was present to confer with the Commission about the model and he assured the Commission that as soon as Congress has enacted legislation, he will complete the models of the coin. (Exhibit G-1)

10. GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD STATUE: Under date of May 25, 1937, the following letter was received from Mr. Leonard Crunelle, sculptor, of Chicago, submitting photographs of his revised model for the General Artemas Ward Statue:

May 25, 1937.

Dear Mr. Moore:

Photographs of the Ward figure were mailed yesterday. My reason for appearing in one of the pictures is to give scale.

Originally I used a cloak with a double cape around the shoulders but later was fortunate in obtaining from Mr. Grosvenor the original cloak worn by Artemas Ward. I found that it made much better lines and used it as it was authentic material. As you see there has been no change in the arrangement as a whole and yet a great deal has been done. I will work on the finishing until I hear from you and will be ready for casting by that time.

It will be necessary to use the dark Stony Creek granite for the pedestal. I had thought of Westerly as being darker than the Stony Creek but found this was not the case. St. Gaudens used it for his Lincoln monument in Chicago but the surface of the granite is rough. Westerly does not seem to be very satisfactory in a rubbed finish. Another difficulty is that the agent at the quarry would not bid on the work if the die was to be in one piece.

With your permission I will use the dark Stony Creek granite and place the order for the pedestal, now that there will be no change in the drapery of the figure which might require modification of the pedestal.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Leonard Crunelle.

The photographs were brought to the particular attention of Mr. Manship, who compared them with a photograph of the former model. Mr. Manship said that the new model indicates that the sculptor has done a great deal of conscientious work on it, and he recognized merit in both the models.

Mr. Manship recommended approval of the model on the basis of the photograph submitted and in this the other members of the Commission concurred. A report was sent to Mr. Crunelle accordingly. (Exhibit H)

11. LANDSCAPE PLAN FOR CONSTITUTION AVENUE WEST OF 17TH STREET: Mr. Clarke stated that Mr. Simon, Supervising Architect, has asked Mr. Geiffert to prepare a landscape plan for the Public Health Service Grounds and that in connection with such a plan Mr. Geiffert would like to make a comprehensive landscape plan for the entire group of buildings west of 17th Street.

The Commission discussed the subject and pointed out that the foreground of the Pharmaceutical Association Building has never been carried out and that the grounds of the National Academy of Sciences should be redesigned. Furthermore the landscape plan of Dr. Cret's Federal Reserve Board building should be brought into the scheme. The Commission agreed that it would be a splendid thing if Mr. Geiffert would prepare such a comprehensive landscape plan and Mr. Simon was requested to grant the necessary authority. (Exhibit I)

12. FENCE FOR WHITE HOUSE GROUNDS: Under date of May 19, 1937, the following memorandum was received from Mr. Lorenzo S. Winslow, architect of the National Park Service, regarding a new fence for the White House Grounds:

May 19, 1937.

Memorandum for Mr. Charles Moore, Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts:

Re: Proposed New Fence and Gates -
Executive Mansion Grounds.

1. Since our recent meeting, I have prepared sketches of the new wrought iron fence, gates and posts, based upon our discussion of the replacement of the present cast iron fence and granite posts. The sketches, together with the attached plan of the grounds, will explain the design of the proposed work.

2. In a memorandum to the White House concerning a new fence, I stated that the existing cast iron fence: "Is Mid-Victorian in character, and very decidedly out of harmony with the Georgian Architecture of the White House, and with the design of existing fence, gates and posts on Pennsylvania Avenue. The low height is undignified and out of scale in relation to the enclosed buildings and large plantings within the grounds. In the proposed future development of the grounds, it is essential that the work should include the replacement of the existing cast iron fence and all granite posts."

3. It is suggested that the new fence be a replica of the existing fence between the two gates on Pennsylvania Avenue. The existing short fence between the Northeast and Northwest Gates and both corners is not quite as high and the design is a simple spear head. This is a point that should be considered, keeping in mind the fact that the existing East Entrance Gates are of the type proposed for the new work.

4. The sketches are submitted for your approval and recommendations and they will then be submitted to the President.

(Signed) Lorenzo S. Winslow.

The Commission discussed the project with Mr. Winslow. It was felt that the increased height of the fence on the south side is desirable but that the motif shown in the design on the south axis should be omitted. The Commission suggested further consideration be given to the fence and posts in the northeast and northwest corners of the grounds. The Commission recommended the omission of the motive on top of the fence on the south axis and further study of the east and west entrance pedestrian gates, which are in need of repair. A report was sent to Mr. Winslow. (Exhibit J)

13. FENCE FOR WASHINGTON WATER FRONT: The plans for new buildings at the head of the Washington Channel along Water Street having received the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts, the U. S. Engineer's Office submitted

a design for a fence to be built along Water Street in connection with the buildings, with letter as follows:

May 26, 1937.

Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Building,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the discussions previously had with the Commission concerning the style of fence to be used along the bulkhead line of the Washington Channel Waterfront development separating the boulevard area from the water area. The adopted project provides for chain link steel wire factory fencing, which the Commission deemed inappropriate for the improvement.

Accordingly, there is submitted a design for a simple ornamental iron picket fence and gates with brick pier posts and emphasized panel points. The same type of fence will be used from 14th Street, S. W., to Fort Humphreys. Gate entrances will be provided where necessary to the land areas riverward of the bulkhead line. The fence will in general connect the buildings in the section occupied by the steamer piers and will be located either in front of or between buildings in the yacht basin section, according to whether or not the buildings are on the bulkhead line.

Approval by the Commission is desired of the fence design, together with any comments or suggestions it may make concerning the type or suitability of the fence to be used as indicated above.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) W. D. Luplow,
Major, Corps of Engineers,
District Engineer.

The design was approved with suggestions, which were embodied in a report to Major Luplow. (Exhibit K)

14. PAINTINGS FOR POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Under date of May 25, 1937, the following letter was received from Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent of the Section of Painting and Sculpture Section, Treasury Department, submitting sketches for paintings in the Post Office Department Building by Rockwell Kent:

May 25, 1937.

Dear Mr. Moore:

Under separate cover I am having forwarded to the Commission of Fine Arts for its comment and advice, two two-inch scale color mural designs by Mr. Rockwell Kent, together with a detail.

These designs are for the mural decoration of the second floor south elevator lobby in the New Post Office Department Building. The subject matter represents, Mail Service in Porto Rico, and Mail Service in Alaska.

Thanking you for a report on these items, I am

Cordially yours,
(Signed) Edward B. Rowan,
Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture.

The designs were brought to the particular attention of Mr. Savage, who said he considered them as being very well done and upon his recommendation the Commission approved them. Mr. Savage said Mr. Kent has made a special study in this field of painting and is one of the first best ten painters in the country. A report was sent to Mr. Rowan accordingly. (Exhibit L)

15. MURAL PAINTINGS FOR POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Mr. Rowan submitted sketches for paintings for the Post Office Department Building by Mr. Savage. They illustrate the inscriptions (national and international subject matter) on the City Post Office that were written by President Eliot of Harvard and edited by President Wilson. The Commission inspected the sketches with interest and approved them. (Exhibit M)

16. HALL OF FAME: In accordance with the request of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds of the House of Representatives, the Commission had under consideration H. R. 6792, providing for the preparation of plans and estimates of cost of erecting a Hall of Fame. The Commission interposed no

objection to the bill and advised that if Congress shall provide for removal from the Capitol of the statues placed there by the states, the Commission of Fine Arts will do their part to help carry out the provisions of the act insofar as the plans and design of the new building are concerned. A report was sent to Hon. Fritz G. Lanham, Chairman, House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds. (Exhibit N)

17. MONUMENT TO FOUNDER OF TENNESSEE A. & I. STATE COLLEGE: Under date of May 24, 1937, the following letter was received from the Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State College:

Nashville, Tennessee,
May 24th, 1937.

To The Commission of Fine Arts,
Constitution Ave. at 18th Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Sirs:

The authorities of the above named institution are considering the erection of a life size bronze statue on the campus of the A. & I. College to the honor of the founder of the said college, and who is still living, and yet president of the institution.

There is a question in the minds of many of us who are interested in the matter as to the propriety or good taste to erect a monument to one before he or she has deceased.

An opinion from you will be greatly appreciated.

Thanking you for a reply.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) D. A. Williston.

Mr. Moore brought the matter to the attention of the Commission, which felt that the erection of a statue to a person still living is unusual but not without precedent. A letter was sent to Mr. Williston accordingly. (Exhibit O)

18. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT SUBMISSIONS: The following Shipstead-Luce Act submissions were received and placed before the Commission for consideration:

1. Plans for Stores and Apartment Building, 2605-07-09--24th Street, N. W. (Application No. 647). The Commission referred these plans to Mr. Shepley and Mr. Lamb for criticism and report.

2. Design for residence at 1603 Van Buren Street, N. W. (Application No. 648). The Commission referred these plans to Mr. Shepley and Mr. Lamb for criticism and report.

3. Design for Furniture Show Building, on Connecticut Avenue, immediately facing on the property of the Bureau of Standards. (Application No. 649) The design, by Arthur Heaton, architect, was approved with the suggestion that, as was noted on the blue print by Mr. Shepley, two windows might be omitted.

4. D. A. R. Building. The Commission inspected a design (Application No. 650) for a new elevator penthouse to go on the D. A. R. Continental Hall. An inspection of the building was made and it was noted that the penthouse would be back of one of the chimneys which would hide the penthouse from 17th Street. The design was approved.

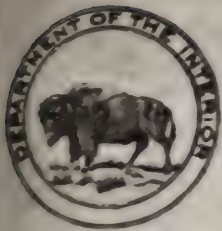
5. Design for Residence on Juniper Street. (Application No. 655) Mr. D. E. Johannes, designer, brought in a revised design for a residence at 1737 Juniper Street. Mr. Shepley inspected the blue print and noted a few changes, which were embodied by Mr. Johannes in a revised design. This was approved by Mr. Shepley.

19. THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL: The Commission discussed the Thomas Jefferson Memorial briefly. It was pointed out that while the House Library

Committee has had under consideration a bill which proposes to prevent the erection of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial south of the Washington Monument, that Committee has not as yet submitted a report on the bill to Congress. In the meantime the Jefferson Memorial Commission is endeavoring to have a landscape plan prepared for the area south of the Washington Monument in modification of Mr. Pope's design and with a view to securing an exact estimate on cost for carrying out a proper landscape plan.

The Commission gave consideration to Mr. Clarke's sketch which suggested an informal treatment of the Tidal Basin and the location of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial on the south bank of the Tidal Basin on the axis of 16th Street but not necessarily on the axis of Maryland Avenue. The Commission agreed that some such treatment is preferable to the scheme presented by Mr. Pope. Mr. Clarke was requested to represent the Commission of Fine Arts on a committee which is cooperating with the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission in the preparation of a suitable landscape plan.

The Commission adjourned at 4:45 p. m., to meet in June in New York City.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JUN-7-1937

Mr. Charles Moore,
Chairman, The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Moore:

Your letter of May 27, addressed to Secretary Ickes and signed by the members of the Commission of Fine Arts at their first meeting in the new Interior Building, has been received in his absence. May I take this occasion to thank you for this expression of satisfaction over your new quarters.

Sincerely yours,

Acting Secretary of the Interior.

RECEIVED

THE NATIONAL AUDITORIUM

The Audience Room

The type of auditorium adopted by Kansas City is well adapted to the varied needs of Washington.

The main audience room seats about 12,000 persons.

The subordinate rooms bring the number that can be accommodated at one time up to 40,000.

Subordinate rooms can be connected with the main room, either by wiring or by movable partitions, or a combination of the two methods, whenever desirable.

In the case of exceptionally large conventions the subordinate rooms are essential in order to provide space under one roof for meeting of separate sections.

Location

A location in a central portion of the city, reasonably convenient to the hotels is desirable as a question of time and also of expense. The location should be approachable from all sides by a wide and well frequented street or avenue. All cities grow, and a now outlying location may become an interior location; but the direction of the city's growth is uncertain and is subject to influences other than those occasioned by an auditorium. Present conditions, therefore, are of certain and immediate consideration.

Architecture

Simplicity, good proportions, and harmony should characterize the architectural design. In commercial cities the life of the average new

building may be taken as approximately 30 years. Washington, on the contrary, is a permanent city, and its buildings should have a permanent character. Again, in commercial cities, large buildings are constructed often for advertising purposes, to make a display supposed to attract public attention. That object may be tolerated in the smaller commercial buildings in Washington but would be out of character in large government structures. Therefore, the design of the Auditorium should not clash with the architectural spirit of Washington, established a century and a quarter ago, and rarely departed from. Such departures as have been made have met reprobation by the man in the street as well as by those of cultivated taste. One does not need knowledge to know when a building is ugly.

The location conditions the use of materials. One would not use either marble on the one hand or brick on the other in a locality where predominately limestone is used for buildings in which utility is the largest factor, as in the case of an auditorium and the Departmental buildings. Appropriately brick may be used with fine artistic effect in an isolated group of buildings like the War College. Today marble is preferred for buildings related to high government purposes--the Capitol and its subordinate structures, the Lincoln Memorial and the buildings approximate thereto, the Supreme Court (a part of the Capitol group) and galleries of art of pure science or of patriotism. There are no hard and fast rules in matters of taste, but the concensus of opinion follows the lines indicated.

Alternative Sites

Assuming that the site on Pennsylvania Avenue at Fourth Street shall be selected, then the building would be of limestone. While simple in design it

would set the pace architecturally for the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue, as was the intended result when the lands were purchased for the District Municipal Center. It should also be in character with the Apex Building, and should not be positively ugly so as to stare out of countenance the National Gallery of Art, its opposite neighbor. In the hands of a capable designer all these considerations would be met as a matter of course. They are the fundamentals of good architecture. It is good-neighborliness.

If the Anacostia site on East Capitol Street shall be favored, then presumably the choice of materials would be brick. The auditorium project naturally would include plans for a stadium and other like recreational buildings. The opportunity for an impressive group of sport buildings, such as was indicated in the Plan of 1901 (but for another site) would be developed.

Such a center for a time would have to put up with remoteness. But the example of the Boston Symphony Hall is a case in point. Remote when first built it is now the center of a vast community of art, educational and religious institutions.

C O P Y

May 20, 1937.

Dear Mr. LaFarge:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on May 27, considered the model submitted with your letter of May 26, for the obverse and reverse of the proposed Second Byrd Antarctic Expedition medal. They were brought to the particular attention of Mr. Paulanship, sculptor member of the Commission.

The Commission approve the design for the obverse. A question was raised as to the correctness of the dates. Do both dates refer to the second expedition?

The Commission are of the opinion that it would improve the design to shorten the legend and thus give more scope to the designer. Also the four subjects around the inscription should be conventionalized. It is expected, of course, that a model of the obverse will be made.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Henry LaFarge,
Special Assistant,
Treasury Department Art Projects,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C

C O P Y

May 27, 1937.

Dear Mr. LaFarge:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting today, considered the sketch which you submitted with your letter of May 26th for a medal for the United States Naval Expeditionary Forces in Foreign Lands. The sketch was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Paulanship, sculptor member of the Commission. He expressed doubt as to whether or not the design could be translated into a good model and the Commission agreed with him. The Commission suggest that Mr. Glinsky be asked to make a model of this design. It will be given prompt attention as soon as submitted.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Henry LaFarge,
Special Assistant,
Treasury Department Art Projects,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D

C O P Y

June 1, 1937.

Dear Mr. Simon:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 27, 1937, considered the three sketches you submitted with your letter of May 1st, showing the sculptured panels to be installed on the exterior of the new Warehouse for the Government Printing Office. The sketches were disapproved.

The sketches were brought to the particular attention of Mr. Paulanship, sculptor member of the Commission, who considers them to be very inadequate. The sketch of the eagle is poor and uninteresting. The relief for the west end of the building is badly balanced and the figure is not well designed. The situation shown in the blueprint is satisfactory.

The Commission advise that a sculptor be secured to make new designs for these panels. It is an excellent opportunity to do a fine thing.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Louis A. Simon,
Supervising Architect,
Procurement Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT E

C O P Y

May 27, 1937.

Dear General Williams:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting today, approved the model which you submitted with your letter of May 13th for the proposed Fleet Marine Corps Reserve Medal, by Mr. John R. Sinnock of the Philadelphia Mint. The Commission approve the model, with the suggestion that the motif at the bottom of the model be placed in a somewhat lower position, or somewhere else, so as not to come in conflict with the figure.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Brig. Gen. Richard P. Williams,
Marine Corps Reserve Section,
Navy Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT F

C O P Y

April 16, 1937.

Dear Senator Tydings:

Your letter of April 14th and photograph of the models, for the Battle of Antietam Memorial Coin, were brought to the attention of Mr. Paul Manship, sculptor member of the Commission.

The Commission of Fine Arts, in consideration of the pressure of time, approve the design as submitted. However, the Commission would suggest to the designer that on the obverse the small lettering is not well placed and the reverse of the design is confusing with the principal motive not sufficiently sculptural. It is too photographic and encroaches on the lettering band. These are simply suggestions to the designer which he may wish to use for his own satisfaction, provided he can conveniently do so.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. Millard E. Tydings,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT G

C O P Y

May 27, 1937.

Dear Senator Tydings:

Your letter of May 25th was received, and the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting today were in conference with Mr. William Marks Simpson with regard to the model for the Battle of Antietam Memorial Coin.

Mr. Simpson has assured the Commission that he will have the models completed when the legislation of Congress on the subject is approved.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. Millard E. Tydings,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT G-1

C O P Y

May 28, 1937.

Dear Mr. Crunelle:

The Commission of Fine Arts yesterday approved the model submitted by you for the Artemas Ward Statue, as you have been informed by telegram. They also approved your choice of Stony Creek granite for the pedestal.

In examining the two photographs the Commission were rather sorry that you did not keep to the original design. They liked the straight lines but at the same time they were disposed to yield to your judgment in the matter. In the photograph of the old model there seemed to be more strength in the face and greater individuality than appears in the photograph of the revised model. This may be due to photography and I am simply mentioning it to you to let you know the feelings of the Commission in regard to this point. We are very anxious now to have you go ahead as fast as possible with the completion and erection of the statue.

Cordially yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore.

Mr. Leonard Crunelle,
6016 Ingleside Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.

EXHIBIT H

C O P Y

May 28, 1937.

Dear Mr. Simon:

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts today Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke informed the Commission of your suggestion to carry out a planting plan for the Public Health Service Grounds along Constitution Avenue, and that it was thought by Mr. Geiffert desirable to have a landscape plan prepared for all the buildings along Constitution Avenue from Nineteenth Street to Twenty-third, which would include not only the Public Health Service Building but also the Federal Reserve Board building, National Academy of Sciences and the American Pharmaceutical Association. This suggestion is heartily endorsed by the Commission of Fine Arts, and it is hoped you will authorize Mr. Geiffert to prepare such a plan.

The Commission of Fine Arts have approved a landscape plan submitted by Dr. Cret for the grounds of the Federal Reserve Board building. The landscape plan for the foreground of the American Pharmaceutical Association has never been carried out.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Louis Simon,
Supervising Architect,
Procurement Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT I

C O P Y

May 27, 1937.

Dear Mr. Winslow:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting today, approved the design you submitted with your Memorandum of May 19th, for a new fence for the Executive Mansion Grounds, subject to a few suggestions that were made during the discussion of the plans. The Commission recommend the omission of the motive of the fence on the south axis and further study of the east and west entrance pedestrian gates.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Lorenzo S. Winslow, Architect,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT J

C O P Y

May 28, 1937.

Dear Major Luplow:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on May 27, 1937, considered the design for an ornamental fence along the bulkhead line of the Washington Channel waterfront, submitted with your letter of May 26.

The Commission approve the design with the suggestion that the posts be simplified and capped with flagstones, two inches thick projecting three-quarters of an inch; the posts should be of brick and 16 inches square.

The intermediate iron posts should be single and twice the size of the ordinary picket with brace behind.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Major W. D. Luplow,
District Engineer,
War Department,
Room 1068 Navy Building,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT K

C O P Y

May 27, 1937.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting today, considered the mural designs by Mr. Rockwell Kent, for the new Post Office Department building, submitted with your letter of May 25th. They were brought to the particular attention of Mr. Eugene Savage, painter member of the Commission, and upon his recommendation the Commission approved them gladly.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Procurement Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT L

C O P Y

June 2, 1937.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 27, 1937, inspected with interest the sketches which you submitted for mural paintings in the Post Office Department building by Mr. Eugene Savage. The Commission approved the sketches.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Procurement Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT M

C O P Y

May 28, 1937.

Dear Mr. Lanham:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on May 27, 1937, had under consideration Bill H. R. 6792 "Providing for the preparation of plans and estimate of cost of erecting a Hall of Fame".

The Commission respectfully report that if Congress shall provide for removal from the Capitol of the statues placed by the States the Commission of Fine Arts will do their part to help carry out the provisions of the Act in so far as the plans and design of the new building are concerned.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. Fritz G. Lanham, Chairman,
Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT N

C O P Y

May 28, 1937.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of May 24, has been considered by the members of the Commission of Fine Arts. They advise you that the erection of a statue to a person still living is unusual but not without precedent. It is one of those matters of taste best decided by the donors who may be supposed to know whether exceptional circumstances may seem to justify a departure from convention. It is decidedly helpful to the final result if the sculptor makes studies from life.

On one point in your letter the Commission can advise you definitely. A statue should be more than life-size in order to look life-size.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. D. A. Williston,
Tennessee Agricultural
and Industrial College,
Nashville, Tennessee.

EXHIBIT O

